ing the 8th Five Year Plan period (1992—97) subject to availability of resources.

(ii) to replace all manual exchanges with electronic exchange by March, 1994.

(iii) to replace all strowger type MAX-III exchanges and all line finder type MAX-II Exchanges by electronic exchanges during 8th Plan period.

(iv) to replace all life expired and worn out switches as and when they become life expired.

Global Tenders for Cellular Mobile Telephones

119. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications have floated global tenders for providing cellular mobile telephones in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no response from the major manufacturers of the cellular mobile telephones; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to implement the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir, the tender floated by the Department was limited to Indian Companies only.

(b) and (c) The question of receiving direct bid from any of the major manufacturers does not arise as there is no major manufacturer of sellular mobile telephones in the country yet. However some bidders have shown tie-up with such manufacturers/operators which are foreign based.

Decline in the Profit of MTNL

120. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has registered a sharp decline in profit during the year 1990-91 despite providing a record number of connections;

(b) if so what are the reasons for this decline and losses; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to make it viable?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Sir, during the year 1990-91 the income of the Company increased by 12.4 per cent as compared to the income in the year 1989-90. However there was some decline in the Profit before Tax due chiefly to loss of earnings due to strike by a section of employees and also to certain revision in the rate of network charges payable by the Nigam to the Department of Telcom.

(c) MTNL is already a viable and profit making organisation right from its inception in the year 1986.

मध्य प्रदेश में दूरभाष कने शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा-सूची

121. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय :**
श्री सुरेश पचौरी :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 31 मार्च, 1992 की स्थिति के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश में दूरभाष कनेक्शनों के लिए जिले-वार प्रतीक्षा सूची में आवेदकों की श्रेणी-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है; और

(ख) प्रतीक्षा सूचियों में दर्ज सभी आवेदकों को कब तक दूरभाष कनेक्शन मिल जाने की संभावना है ?